

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) Process for the production of melamine using ~~extraction of energy from flue gases of~~ a furnace ~~that which~~ is operated with a fuel resulting in flue gases, ~~and which is used in a process for the production of melamine~~, the process comprising:
 - (1) a first heat exchange step in which the flue gases are heat exchanged with a first process stream, ~~characterized in that~~
 - (2) a second heat exchange step after the first heat exchange step wherein the flue gases are heat exchanged with a second process stream, and in a ~~second heat exchange step~~
 - (3) a third heat exchange step wherein the flue gases are heat exchanged with fresh air.
2. (canceled)
3. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1, wherein the furnace is a salt furnace.
4. (original) Process according to claim 3, wherein in the first heat exchange step the flue gases exchange heat with molten salt, and wherein in the second heat exchange step the flue gases exchange heat with a process stream which consists essentially of ammonia.
5. (original) Process according to claim 3, wherein in the first heat exchange step the flue gases exchange heat with molten salt, and wherein in the second heat exchange step the flue gases exchange heat with a process stream which consists essentially of urea.

6. (currently amended) Process according to claim 1, further comprising (4) a fourth heat exchange step in which a process stream is heat exchanged with the flue gases, wherein [[with]] the process stream which is supplied to the fourth heat exchange step ~~having~~ has a higher temperature than the flue gases which are supplied to the fourth heat exchange step.
7. (currently amended) Apparatus ~~for supplying process heat in a process~~ for the production of melamine comprising: , comprising
a salt furnace operated by combustion and producing flue gases, the salt furnace further including which includes a first heat exchange unit in which salt is heated so as to provide heated salt which serves as a process heat supply in a process for the production of melamine, wherein characterized in that the apparatus includes,
a second at least one further heat exchange unit which directly or indirectly heats a process stream, and
a third heat exchange unit which is in contact with the flue gases.
8. (currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~claim 6~~ claim 7, wherein the second which includes as further heat exchange unit directly heats a heat exchange unit for the direct heating of a process stream which consists essentially of ammonia or urea.
9. (currently amended) Apparatus according to ~~claim 6~~ claim 7, wherein the third which further contains a heat exchange unit heat exchanges the flue gases with for heating fresh air.
10. (currently amended) Process for optimizing an existing apparatus for the supply of process heat from flue gases in a process for the production of melamine, comprising adding a second characterized in that at least one heat exchange unit is added for the direct or indirect heating of a process stream, and adding a third

heat exchange unit for heating fresh air, wherein both the second and third heat exchange units are in contact with the flue gases.

11. (currently amended) Process according to ~~claim 9~~ claim 10, in which the added second heat exchange unit is used for the direct heating of a process stream which consists essentially of ammonia or urea.